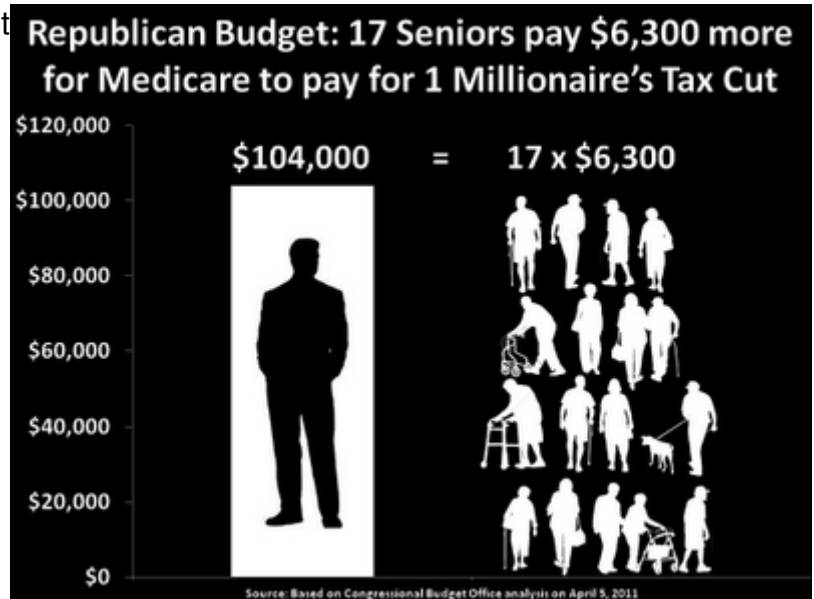


"Democrats believe that tackling our debt deserves serious action and shared sacrifice from all Americans—but the Republican budget



shows they have the wrong priorities. It would severely damage America's ability to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build its competitors, and would harm job creation at a critical point in our recovery. It would end Medicare as we know it, shifting health care costs onto seniors. And it would dismantle Medicaid, restricting access to care for the most vulnerable Americans. But then Republicans find the money to give trillions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans.

"I strongly believe that getting our debt under control demands hard choices and cannot be pushed off—but I cannot support the skewed values behind the Republican budget. I hope that both parties can come together to support a plan in which the sacrifices of deficit reduction are shared fairly among all Americans. That plan must include deficit-reducing tax reform, scrutiny of our defense budget for waste, and hard choices to keep our entitlement programs solvent for years to come."

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